General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 73 (*n*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the First Committee (A/58/462)*]

58/241. The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 57/72 of 22 November 2002,

Recalling its resolutions 50/70 B of 12 December 1995, 52/38 J of 9 December 1997, 53/77 E and 53/77 T of 4 December 1998, 54/54 R of 1 December 1999, 54/54 V of 15 December 1999, 55/33 Q of 20 November 2000 and 56/24 V of 24 December 2001,

Emphasizing the importance of early and full implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted by the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,[1]

Welcoming the adoption by consensus of the report of the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York from 7 to 11 July 2003,[2]

Welcoming also the efforts by Member States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national reports on their implementation of the Programme of Action,

Noting with satisfaction regional efforts being undertaken in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 57/72,[3]

Welcoming the report on the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner,

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[1] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

[2] A/CONF.192/BMS/2003/1.

[3] See A/58/207.

illicit small arms and light weapons, prepared by the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 56/24 V, [4]

Conscious of its decision to convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue to be decided by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session,

1. *Decides* to convene a United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects[1] in New York for a period of two weeks between June and July 2006;

2. *Also decides* that a session of the preparatory committee for the conference is to be held in New York for a period of two weeks in January 2006, and that, if necessary, a subsequent session may be held;

3. *Further decides* to convene in 2005 the second biennial meeting of States as stipulated in the Programme of Action to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action;

4. *Determines* that it is feasible to develop an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons;

5. *Notes* that the character of the international instrument will be determined in the course of negotiations;

6. *Also notes* that the international instrument should be complementary to, and not inconsistent with, the existing commitments of States under relevant international instruments;

7. *Further notes* that the international instrument should take into account the national security and legal interests of States;

8. *Decides* to establish an open-ended working group, to meet in three sessions of two weeks each, to negotiate an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons;

9. *Also decides* that the open-ended working group shall hold an organizational session in New York on 3 and 4 February 2004 in order to set the dates for its substantive sessions;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the open-ended working group with the assistance and services that may be required for the discharge of its tasks;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to hold broad-based consultations, within available financial resources and with any other assistance provided by Member States in a position to do so, with all Member States, interested regional and subregional organizations, international agencies and experts in the field, on further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons, taking into consideration the views of States provided to the Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the outcome of his consultations;

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[4] See A/58/138.

12. *Continues to encourage* all initiatives to mobilize resources and expertise to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action and to provide assistance to States in its implementation;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis, including national reports, on the implementation by those States of the Programme of Action, and encourages Member States to submit such reports;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".

79th plenary meeting
23 December 2003